**From:** Christiansen, Robin
**To:** LeBoon
**Cc:** City Clerks Office; City Council
**Subject:** Re: EXTERNAL: Late submission regarding safety ordinance for panhandling
**Date:** Sunday, November 16, 2025 7:48:37 AM

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Good morning, Thank you both for sharing your personal insight and observations. I appreciate you both because you understand the issue and unlike others have offered some concrete carefully thought out solutions. Thank you again for being part of this great adventure we call Dover, the place where America started. Warmest regards Robin
Robin R. Christiansen
Mayor City of Dover

On Nov 15, 2025, at 5:14 PM, LeBoon <slspiders@gmail.com> wrote:

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Steve & Cassandra LeBoon

1025 Westview Terrace

To the Honorable Members of the Council:

I hope you are all having a pleasant weekend. My wife Cassandra and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this late feedback regarding the proposed panhandling and donation-safety ordinance currently under consideration. We have listened to public comments from both supporters and opponents, and while there have been many thoughtful concerns raised, we noticed that some discussion did not reflect the relevant U.S. Supreme Court guidance concerning panhandling regulations.

As you know, panhandling is closely connected to First Amendment protections, and ordinances regulating solicitation in public spaces must pass intermediate scrutiny. Such ordinances must:

1. Be content-neutral;
2. Be narrowly tailored;
3. Leave open ample alternative channels of communication; and
4. Serve a significant, legitimate government interest.

Many panhandling ordinances across the country have been struck down even under this standard. For example, the First Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated Portland, Maine's ordinance in Cutting v. City of Portland (2015) because it was not narrowly tailored and restricted too much expressive activity. I highlight this not to be redundant, but because it is essential that any ordinance the Council adopts be constructed on firm legal ground that protects both public safety and constitutional rights.

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## Personal Perspective and Experiences

My view of panhandling is shaped significantly by personal experience. I have a twin brother who struggled with mental-health issues and panhandled for many years, despite having a stable income ($45,000 per year), his own apartment, and access to basic needs. even though I'm his personal power of attorney, I was unaware he was panhandling until he was arrested for harassing individuals. He later served a federal sentence related to unrelated circumstances, but through him and through speaking with other individuals directly—I learned a great deal about why some people panhandle.

Contrary to common belief, many individuals who panhandle in our area are not homeless. In fact, when I personally spoke with 10–15 individuals near the Sam's Club area, nearly all of them lived comfortably at the hotel by Lowe's and Chick-fil-A. The weekly rate for that hotel is approximately $400 per week, even with no monthly discount. At that price, panhandling becomes, frankly, a lucrative activity. I do not blame them for seeking income, but I believe the public should understand the reality: in this area, panhandling is frequently not a matter of homelessness, but of opportunity and personal circumstances.

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## Safety Concerns

While I am compassionate toward those who panhandle and have even helped some directly, safety must remain a top priority. Just last night, on Route 13 near the Aldi intersection, my wife and I witnessed a panhandler standing in the road,

nearly struck by vehicles twice. The individual appeared unfazed. This is not an isolated incident. The safety risks to both the panhandler and the driving public are very real and increasing.

Because of these dangers, I strongly support measures that reduce panhandling in high-traffic roadways and intersections while still respecting constitutional limits and human dignity.

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## Constructive Recommendation

If individuals wish to panhandle, perhaps they should do so on properties where social-service interactions are appropriate and safer, such as:

- unemployment offices
- welfare offices
- state government service centers

These locations provide safer environments, ample parking lots, and direct access to officials and services that might assist them more effectively than roadside solicitations.

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## Closing

In closing, we want to thank each of you for your service to our city. We are proud to live in what we consider one of the best communities in the country, with strong leadership from a dedicated council and a mayor who has shown commitment year after year.

We hope you will consider our experiences and observations as you evaluate this ordinance. Thank you for all you do, and we wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Respectfully,

Steve and Cassandra

1025 Westview Terrace